

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1527

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2003

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

To amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board for fiscal years 2003 through 2006, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Transpor-
3 tation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2003”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 (a) FISCAL YEARS 2003–2006.—Section 1118(a) of
6 title 49, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by striking “and”; and

8 (2) by striking “such sums to” and inserting
9 the following: “\$73,325,000 for fiscal year 2003,
10 \$78,757,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$83,011,000 for
11 fiscal year 2005, and \$87,539,000 for fiscal year
12 2006. Such sums shall”.

13 (b) EMERGENCY FUND.—Section 1118(b) of such
14 title is amended by striking the second sentence and in-
15 serting the following: “In addition, there are authorized
16 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to in-
17 crease the fund to, and maintain the fund at, a level of
18 not to exceed \$6,000,000.”.

19 (c) NTSB ACADEMY.—Section 1118 of such title is
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(c) ACADEMY.—There are authorized to be appro-
22 priated to the Board for necessary expenses of the Na-
23 tional Transportation Safety Board Academy, not other-
24 wise provided for, \$3,347,000 for fiscal year 2003,
25 \$4,896,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$4,995,000 for fiscal year

1 2005, and \$5,200,000 for fiscal year 2006. Such sums
2 shall remain available until expended.”.

3 **SEC. 3. ACCIDENT AND SAFETY DATA CLASSIFICATION AND**
4 **PUBLICATION.**

5 Section 1119 of title 49, United States Code, is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(c) APPEALS.—

8 “(1) NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS.—In any case
9 in which an employee of the Board determines that
10 an occurrence associated with the operation of an
11 aircraft constitutes an accident, the employee shall
12 notify the owner or operator of that aircraft of the
13 right to appeal that determination to the Board.

14 “(2) PROCEDURE.—The Board shall establish
15 and publish the procedures for appeals under this
16 subsection.

17 “(3) LIMITATION ON APPLICABILITY.—This
18 subsection shall not apply in the case of an accident
19 that results in a loss of life.”.

20 **SEC. 4. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION’S RESPONSES TO**
21 **SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS.**

22 Section 1135(d) of title 49, United States Code, is
23 amended to read as follows:

24 “(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(1) ANNUAL SECRETARIAL REGULATORY STA-
2 TUS REPORTS.—On February 1 of each year, the
3 Secretary shall submit a report to Congress and the
4 Board containing the regulatory status of each sig-
5 nificant safety recommendation made by the Board
6 to the Secretary (or to an Administration within the
7 Department). The Secretary shall continue to report
8 on the regulatory status of each such recommenda-
9 tion in the report due on February 1 of subsequent
10 years until final regulatory action is taken on that
11 recommendation or the Secretary (or an Administra-
12 tion within the Department) determines and states
13 in such a report that no action should be taken.

14 “(2) FAILURE TO REPORT.—If on March 1 of
15 each year the Board has not received the Secretary’s
16 report required by this subsection, the Board shall
17 notify the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
18 structure of the House of Representatives and the
19 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
20 tation of the Senate of the Secretary’s failure to
21 submit the required report.

22 “(3) SIGNIFICANT SAFETY RECOMMENDATION
23 DEFINED.—For the purposes of this subsection, the
24 term ‘significant safety recommendation’ means a
25 recommendation included in the Board’s ‘most want-

1 ed list’ and any recommendation concerning 15-pas-
 2 senger van safety, railroad grade crossing safety,
 3 and medical certifications for a commercial driver’s
 4 license.

5 “(4) TERMINATION.—This subsection shall
 6 cease to be in effect after the report required to be
 7 filed on February 1, 2008, is filed.”.

8 **SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES OF PASSENGERS IN-**
 9 **VOLVED IN AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS.**

10 (a) RELINQUISHMENT OF INVESTIGATIVE PRI-
 11 ORITY.—Section 1136 of title 49, United States Code, is
 12 amended by adding at the end the following:

13 “(j) RELINQUISHMENT OF INVESTIGATIVE PRI-
 14 ORITY.—

15 “(1) GENERAL RULE.—This section (other than
 16 subsection (g)) shall not apply to an aircraft acci-
 17 dent if the Board has relinquished investigative pri-
 18 ority under section 1131(a)(2)(B) and the Federal
 19 agency to which the Board relinquished investigative
 20 priority is willing and able to provide assistance to
 21 the victims and families of the passengers involved
 22 in the accident.

23 “(2) BOARD ASSISTANCE.—If this section does
 24 not apply to an aircraft accident because the Board
 25 has relinquished investigative priority with respect to

1 the accident, the Board shall assist, to the maximum
2 extent possible, the agency to which the Board has
3 relinquished investigative priority in assisting fami-
4 lies with respect to the accident.”.

5 (b) REVISION OF MOU.—Not later than 1 year after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the National Transpor-
7 tation Safety Board and the Federal Bureau of Investiga-
8 tion shall revise their 1977 agreement on the investigation
9 of accidents to take into account the amendments made
10 by this section and shall submit a copy of the revised
11 agreement to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
12 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
13 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
14 Senate.

15 **SEC. 6. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

16 Section 1131(a)(2) of title 49, United States Code,
17 is amended by moving subparagraphs (B) and (C) 4 ems
18 to the left.

Passed the House of Representatives May 15, 2003.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.

By MARTHA C. MORRISON,

Deputy Clerk.